Confirmation No.: 5404 Applicant: Ronald W. Hartgrove

Atty. Ref.: 11149.0030.NPUS00

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- 1. (Currently amended) A jewelry article for an interchangeable setting, comprising:
 - a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area; and
 - a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from underneath the setting in a direction other than along the one axis and holding the setting in the mounting area substantially along the one axis, wherein the module has at least two portions positioning at least partially adjacent at least two portions of the setting to prevent the setting from escaping the mounting area substantially along the one axis when the setting is positioned in the area.

2-4 (Cancelled)

- 5. (Currently amended) The jewelry article of claim [[4]]1, wherein the at least two portions of the module include sides of the module positioning at least partially adjacent the at least two portions of the setting in the mounting area.
- 6. (Currently amended) A jewelry article worn by a wearer, comprising: an interchangeable setting;
 - a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting on the body except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area; and
 - a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from a direction other than along the one axis and preventing removal of the setting from the mounting area substantially along the one axis and wherein said module has at least two sides that define a capture area,

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wherein the body defines a recessed portion that includes a bridge positioned between the

mounting area and an opening for wearing the article, and wherein a portion of the

module fits onto the bridge from the opening for wearing the article.

7. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the body has first and second sides and

wherein the mounting area is defined through the body from the first side to the second side.

8. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 7, wherein portions of the body forming the

mounting area to hold the setting are positioned along the two axes substantially orthogonal to

the one axis.

9. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 8, wherein the mounting area is at least partially

open along one of the substantially orthogonal axes to the one axis.

10. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 9, wherein the mounting area is defined by a

radius and has a circumferential dimension at least greater than half of a circle.

11. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 10, wherein the at least a portion of setting

includes a portion of a sphere, disk, or cylinder.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module defines a slot coupling with

a portion of the body.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module is removable from the body

such that the module is interchangeable.

17. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module is fixedly and movably

coupled to the body.

18. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 17, further comprising a biasing member biasing

the module to capture the interchangeable setting.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module has at least one portion

positioning at least partially adjacent the setting to prevent removal of the setting from the

mounting area substantially along the one axis.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module has at least two portions

positioning at least partially adjacent at least two portions of the setting to prevent removal of the

setting from the mounting area substantially along the one axis.

23. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 22, wherein the at least two portions of the

module include sides of the module positioning at least partially adjacent the at least two portions

of the setting in the mounting area.

24. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 6, wherein the module remains mechanically

coupled on the body by the wearer when the jewelry article is worn.

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25. (Currently amended) A jewelry article for a wearer, comprising:

an interchangeable setting;

means for holding the setting except substantially in both directions along one axis;

means discrete from the setting for preventing removal of the setting substantially along

the one axis; and

means for slidably coupling together the means for holding the setting and the means for

preventing removal of the setting such that the interchangeable setting is

substantially captured on the jewelry article, wherein said slidable coupling

comprises sliding movement in a direction underneath the setting and other than

along the one axis.

26. (Previously presented) The jewelry article of claim 25, wherein the means for slidably

coupling includes means for interchangeably fitting a first portion of the preventing means onto a

second portion of the holding means.

27. (Previously presented) The jewelry article of claim 25, wherein the means for slidably

coupling includes means for fixedly and movably coupling the holding means to the preventing

means.

28. (Previously presented) The jewelry article of claim 26, wherein the means for fixedly and

movably coupling further includes means for biasing the preventing means into engagement with

the holding means.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 25, further comprising means for maintaining the

preventing means and the holding means mechanically coupled together by the wearer when the

jewelry article is worn.

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31. (Previously presented) A jewelry article worn by a wearer, comprising: an interchangeable setting;

- a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting on the body except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area;
- a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from a direction other than along the one axis and preventing removal of the setting from the mounting area substantially along the one axis, wherein the module defines a slot coupling with a portion of the body; and
- wherein the portion of the body includes a bridge of the body positioned between the mounting area and an opening for wearing the article, and wherein the slot of the module fits onto the bridge from the opening for wearing the article.
- 32. (Previously presented) A jewelry article worn by a wearer, comprising: an interchangeable setting;
 - a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting on the body except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area; and
 - a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from a direction other than along the one axis and preventing removal of the setting from the mounting area substantially along the one axis, wherein the module magnetically couples to the body by one or more magnets in addition to mechanically coupling to the body.
- 33. (Previously presented) A jewelry article for a wearer, comprising: an interchangeable setting;

means for holding the setting except substantially along one axis;

means discrete from the setting for preventing removal of the setting substantially along the one axis; and

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means for slidably coupling together the means for holding the setting and the means for preventing removal of the setting such that the interchangeable setting is substantially captured on the jewelry article, wherein said slidable coupling comprises sliding movement in a direction other than along the one axis and wherein the means for slidably coupling further includes means for magnetically coupling the holding means to the preventing means.

34. (New) A jewelry article for an interchangeable setting, comprising:

- a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area; and
- a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from underneath the setting in a direction other than along the one axis and holding the setting in the mounting area substantially along the one axis, wherein the module includes an arm inserting into a bore in the setting.

35. (New) A jewelry article worn by a wearer, comprising:

an interchangeable setting;

- a body defining a mounting area, the mounting area holding the setting on the body except substantially along one axis when at least a portion of the setting is positioned in the area; and
- a module discrete from the setting, said module slidably coupling on the body from a direction other than along the one axis and preventing removal of the setting from the mounting area substantially along the one axis and wherein the module includes an arm inserting into a bore in the interchangeable setting,
- wherein the body defines a recessed portion that includes a bridge positioned between the mounting area and an opening for wearing the article, and wherein a portion of the module fits onto the bridge from the opening for wearing the article.